

Message Text

SECRET

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73-67

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 094200

O 192040 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6937

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

USDEL FRANCE IMMEDIATE UNN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 1494

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y -- AMEMBASSY BONN ADDED AS INFO
ADDEE--

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MARR, VN

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF NORTH VIETNAM

REF: STATE 47702, BRUSSELS 1395, THE HAGUE 1281

1. FONMINISTRY DIRGEN DAVIGNON INFORMED US EVENING MARCH 19 THAT
BELGIANS SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING DUTCH AND ITALIANS TO DELAY BRIEFLY
THEIR SCHEDULED ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS

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WITH NORTH VIETNAM. HE THINKS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WILL BE WILLING DELAY ANNOUNCEMENT BEYOND MARCH 22. HE SAID (PROTECT STRICTLY) THAT DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD HAD ROOM PREPARED FOR ANNOUNCEMENT IN BRUSSELS MAR 16 AND HAD ONLY BEEN PERSUADED TO HOLD OFF BY EARNEST BELGIAN EFFORTS FOLLOWING OUR MAR 15 DEMARCHE. ITALIANS ALSO UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE BECAUSE OF PARLIAMENTARY RESOLUTION CALLING FOR DRV RELATIONS.

2. DAVIGNON SAID DUTCH AND BELGIANS HAD AGREED SEEK CONFIRMATION FROM ICCS THAT VIOLATIONS WERE MORE THAN EXPECTED " JOCKEYING" AND SUFFICIENTLY FLAGRANT TO WARRANT FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF ANNOUNCEMENT.

HE SAID DUTCH MINISTER WOULD NEED EVALUATION FROM " OTHER THAN AMERICAN SOURCES" IN ORDER TO HANDLE PARLIAMENT. BELGIAN AND DUTCH MINISTRIES HAVE THEREFORE BOTH CABLED INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR SAIGON EMBASSIES TO APPROACH ICCS IMMEDIATELY FOR ITS APPRAISAL. (DAVIGNON SAID THIS PROCEDURAL MOVE EMERGED FROM CONVERSATION BETWEEN DUTCH FONMIN AND AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN THE HAGUE. SEE THE HAGUE 1281 RECEIVED AFTER OUR CONVERSATION WITH DAVIGNON.)

3. BARRING CLEAR EVIDENCE FROM ICCS SOURCES OF IMPRESSIVE DRV VIOLATIONS, DAVIGNON DID NOT BELIEVE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE POSTPONED BEYOND THURSDAY, MARCH 22. DCM AND POLCOUNS URGED THAT BELGIANS NOT JOIN IF DUTCH AND ITALIANS INCLINED TO ANNOUNCE ON MARCH 22 AND PROBED

WHETHER THIS WOULD NOT LEAD DUTCH AND ITALIANS TO RECONSIDER IN ORDER PRESERVE COMMON FRONT. WE ALSO NOTED DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING QUICK AND CONVINCING EVALUATION FROM ICCS AND SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF US PROVIDING MORE DETAILED EVIDENCE ON EXTENT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF VIOLATIONS. DAVIGNON REPLIED THAT BELGIUM HAD BEEN ABLE PERSUADE DUTCH AND ITALIANS TO DELAY ONLY ON UNDERSTANDING THAT BENELUX AND ITALIANS WOULD EVENTUALLY TAKE COMMON POSITION; WHEN DUTCH AND ITALIANS CONSIDER THEY ARE OBLIGED TO ANNOUNCE, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG

MUST FOLLOW SUIT. HE DOUBTED THAT ADDED US EVIDENCE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO INFLUENCE DUTCH AND ITALIANS, BUT DID NOT FLATLY RULE THIS OUT. BELGIAN COMMITMENT TO TAKING THIS COMMON POSITION WAS FIRM, HE SAID. ON OTHER HAND, IF DUTCH AND ITALIANS IMPRESSED BY

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NEW AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF VIOLATIONS, BELGIANS WOULD GLADLY
SUPPORT FURTHER POSTPONEMENT.

4. COMMENT: IF WASHINGTON DOES NOT EXPECT ICCS TO PROVIDE WELL-
DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS DRV VIOLATIONS IN RESPONSE TO DUTCH,
BELGIAN, AND, PRESUMABLY, ITALIAN INQUIRIES IN SAIGON, DETAILED
US DOCUMENTATION AND EXPLANATION PROVIDED TO THE THREE COUNTRIES
IN SAIGON AND WASHINGTON MIGHT HAVE SLIM CHANCE OF HALTING RUSH
TO RECOGNITION.

STRAUSZ- HUPE

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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